

## AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

1-6 (canceled).

7 (currently amended). A machine readable memory encoded with a data structure for aliasing inputs to provide a single virtual input in a premises automation system, the data structure comprising:

a description of a logical relationship;

a plurality of entries related to a premises to which entries the logical relationship applies, each entry producing a Boolean result on which the logical relationship operates to produce a single Boolean outcome for the single virtual input, each entry further comprising:

at least a first input identifier serving as a first operand;

at least one operator; and

at least a second operand;

wherein a storage bit corresponds to the single virtual input to represent a standard meaning for a state of status information of the premises wherein the status information cannot be represented by a single physical input.

8 (original). The memory of claim 7 wherein the second operand in at least one of the plurality of entries is a second input identifier.

9 (original). The memory of claim 7 wherein the second operand in at least one of the plurality of entries is a stored value.

10 (original). The memory of claim 8 wherein the second operand in at least one of the plurality of entries is a stored value.

11 (currently amended). A method for aliasing inputs in a premises automation system, the method comprising:

producing a plurality of Boolean results, one Boolean result for each of a plurality of entries related to a premises, each entry further comprising at least a first input identifier serving as a first operand, at least one operator, and at least a second operand;

applying a logical relationship to the plurality of Boolean results to produce a single Boolean outcome for a single virtual input; and

setting a storage bit corresponding the single virtual input to represent ~~a standard meaning for a state of status information of the premises wherein the status information cannot be represented by a single physical input.~~

12 (original). The method of claim 11 wherein the second operand in at least one of the plurality of entries is a second input identifier.

13 (original). The method of claim 11 wherein the second operand in at least one of the plurality of entries is a stored value.

14 (original). The method of claim 12 wherein the second operand in at least one of the plurality of entries is a stored value.

15 (currently amended). Apparatus for providing a single virtual input in a premises automation system, the apparatus comprising:

means for producing a plurality of Boolean results, one Boolean result for each of a plurality of entries related to a premises, each entry further comprising at least a first input identifier serving as a first operand, at least one operator, and at least a second operand;

means for applying a logical relationship to the plurality of Boolean results to produce a single Boolean outcome for the single virtual input; and

means for setting a storage bit corresponding to the single virtual input to represent ~~a standard meaning for a state of status information of the premises wherein the status information cannot be represented by a single physical input.~~

16-56 (canceled).

57 (currently amended). An input/output (I/O) unit for use in premises automation, the input/output unit comprising:

- a processor for controlling the operation of the I/O unit;
- a plurality of inputs operatively connected to the processor, at least some of the inputs operable receive communication related to a premises from premises-based apparatus; and
- a memory connected to the processor, the memory encoded with program code to enable the processor to control the operation of the I/O unit to provide input aliasing through a data structure further comprising:

- a description of a logical relationship;
  - a plurality of entries corresponding to the inputs to which entries the logical relationship applies, each entry producing a Boolean result on which the logical relationship operates to produce a single Boolean outcome for a single virtual input, each entry further comprising:
    - at least a first input identifier serving as a first operand;
    - at least one operator; and
    - at least a second operand;
- wherein a storage bit corresponding to the single virtual input represents ~~a standard meaning for a state of status information of the premises wherein the status information cannot be represented by a single physical input.~~

58 (original). The I/O unit of claim 57 wherein the second operand in at least one of the plurality of entries is a second input identifier.

59 (original). The I/O unit of claim 57 wherein the second operand in at least one of the plurality of entries is a stored value.

60 (original). The I/O unit of claim 58 wherein the second operand in at least one of the plurality of entries is a stored value.

61 (currently amended). An input/output (I/O) unit for use in premises automation, the input/output unit comprising:

- a processor for controlling the operation of the I/O unit;

a plurality of inputs operatively connected to the processor, at least some of the inputs operable to receive communication related to a premises from premises-based apparatus; and a memory connected to the processor, the memory encoded with program code to enable the processor to control the operation of the I/O unit to provide input aliasing by producing a plurality of Boolean results, one Boolean result for each of a plurality of entries, each entry further comprising at least a first input identifier and applying a logical relationship to the plurality of Boolean results to produce a single Boolean outcome for setting a storage bit as a single virtual input representing ~~a standard meaning for a state of status information of the premises wherein the status information cannot be represented by a single physical input.~~

62 (original). The I/O unit of claim 61 wherein at least one of the plurality of entries further comprises a second input identifier.

63 (original). The I/O unit of claim 61 wherein at least one of the plurality of entries further comprises a stored value.

64 (original). The I/O unit of claim 62 wherein at least one of the plurality of entries further comprises a stored value.

65 (previously presented). The apparatus of claim 15 wherein the second operand in at least one of the plurality of entries is a data structure including a second input identifier.

66 (previously presented). The apparatus of claim 15 wherein the second operand in at least one of the plurality of entries is a data structure including a stored value.

67 (previously presented). The apparatus of claim 65 wherein the second operand in at least one of the plurality of entries is a data structure including a stored value.

68 (previously presented). The machine readable memory of claim 7 wherein the first input identifier is formatted so that the first input identifier alone can specify any of a plurality of distributed inputs in the premises automation system.

69 (previously presented). The machine readable memory of claim 68 wherein the first input identifier is further formatted to include an input number and a unit number.

70 (previously presented). The method of claim 11 wherein the first input identifier is formatted so that the first input identifier alone can specify any of a plurality of distributed inputs in the premises automation system.

71 (previously presented). The method of claim 70 wherein the first input identifier is further formatted to include an input number and a unit number.

72 (previously presented). The apparatus of claim 15 wherein the first input identifier is formatted so that the first input identifier alone can specify any of a plurality of distributed inputs in the premises automation system.

73 (previously presented). The apparatus of claim 72 wherein the first input identifier is further formatted to include an input number and a unit number.

74 (previously presented). The I/O unit of claim 57 wherein the first input identifier is formatted so that the first input identifier alone can specify any of a plurality of distributed inputs in the premises automation system.

75 (previously presented). The I/O unit of claim 74 wherein the first input identifier is further formatted to include an input number and a unit number.

76 (previously presented). The I/O unit of claim 61 wherein the first input identifier is formatted so that the first input identifier alone can specify any of a plurality of distributed inputs in the premises automation system.

77 (previously presented). The I/O unit of claim 76 wherein the first input identifier is further formatted to include an input number and a unit number.